

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-02 FRB-03 OMB-01 TAR-01 SP-02

AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

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TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (PRONK, JAN), NL, UNGA, EGEN

SUBJECT: PRONK VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: THE HAGUE 0798 (NOTAL)

1. MINISTER PRONK, ACCOMPANIED BY VAN GORKOM, CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY IO BLAKE MARCH 10 TO DISCUSS 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA NEXT SEPTEMBER. BLAKE SAID THAT US CONSIDERS ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE UN AS A PART OF ITS OVERALL DIPLOMACY TOWARDS LDC'S. THE 29TH SESSION OF THE UNGA HAD ITS UNPLEASANT ASPECTS BUT, ON ANALYSIS, INTERESTS OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WERE NOT HURT TOO BADLY. WE WERE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, BECAUSE BLOC MAJORITY TACTICS AND DESTRUCTION OF PRECEDENTS,
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ESPECIALLY IN DRAMATIC CASES SUCH AS SOUTH AFRICA OUSTER

AND ARAFAT PLO RECEPTION HAD CREATED PROBLEMS WITH THE PUBLIC AND CONGRESS WHO ARE NOT SURE WHETHER THIS WAS THE FIRST STEP IN A NEW DIRECTION TO CHANGE ALL RULES UNILATERALLY OR WHETHER IT WAS ISOLATED BEHAVIOR DUE TO THE ALGERIAN CHAIRMANSHIP.

2. BLAKE SAID IT WAS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST TO FIND WAYS TO DEFINE COMMON OBJECTIVES WITH LDC'S AND THE MEANS TO ACHIEVE THEM, BUT THERE WAS NO POINT IN INITIATING ECONOMICALLY IMPRACTICAL OR POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS. THE US WAS REVIEWING NEW INITIATIVES IN ITS

RELATIONS WITH THE LDC'S. THIS INVOLVED CONSIDERATION OF EXTREMELY COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, AND WILL TAKE TIME TO WORK OUT. IN ESSENCE, OUR POLICY WAS TO SEEK COOPERATION AND CONSENSUS. US NEEDS TIME AND THE SUPPORT OF ITS FRIENDS IN UN FORA.

3. MINISTER PRONK SAID THAT TO GAIN THE COOPERATION OF THE LDC'S, THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE US, WILL HAVE TO GIVE THEM A GUARANTEE OF MORE WILLINGNESS THAN SHOWN IN THE PAST TO NEGOTIATE REGARDING THEIR DEEPLY FELT ASPIRATIONS. THE INTRANSIGENCE OF THE LDC'S DID NOT COME SUDDENLY BUT WAS IN REACTION TO PAST FRUSTRATIONS. IF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAD DONE SOMETHING REALLY SUBSTANTIAL ON TRADE POLICY IN UNCTAD III, WE WOULD NOT BE TAKING THE HAMMERING WE ARE NOW.

4. PRONK EMPHASIZED WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE NEW MOMENTUM BASED ON CHANGES IN POLITICAL POWER RELATIONSHIPS, AND THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE CONFRONTATION IN THE UN DEPENDED ON THE REACTION OF THE TRADITIONAL RICH COUNTRIES. IF THE US COULD DO MORE TO MEET THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE POOREST LDC'S, HE BELIEVED THAT THE NETHERLANDS COULD WORK OUT A PARALLEL APPROACH WITH US EVEN TO THE POINT OF DECISION-TAKING. IT WAS NECESSARY TO TAKE AN INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY APPROACH BECAUSE DEVELOPMENT AID PERFORMANCE WAS NOT IMPROVING; PERHAPS THE ONLY PRACTICAL WAY TO TRANSFER RESOURCES WOULD BE THROUGH HIGHER PRICES FOR RAW MATERIALS. THIS MUST INCLUDE ARRANGEMENTS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCOME GUARANTEES AND BUFFER STOCKS, BUT IT SHOULD BE IN THE FORM OF A COMMODITY PACKAGE RATHER THAN COMMODITY BY COMMODITY AGREEMENTS AND IT MUST EMPHASIZE INCREASED PROCESSING IN LDC'S TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT.

5. BLAKE STRESSED AGAIN OUR CAUTION NOT TO OVER-STEP OUR ABILITY TO PRODUCE ON OUR COMMITMENTS. PRONK REPLIED THAT IN THE NETHERLANDS POLITICIANS SOMETIMES HID BEHIND

PUBLIC OPINION RATHER THAN LEAD IT. THEY BOTH AGREED
THAT THE LDC'S EXPECT THE US TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP IN AN
EFFORT TO ACHIEVE A NEW CONSENSUS. BLAKE STRESSED
TACTICAL DIFFICULTIES OF AVOIDING THE APPEARANCE OF BEING '
RIGID IN THE TRANSITION PERIOD BEFORE NEW APPROACHES
CAN BE ANNOUNCED, AND ASKED FOR DUTCH UNDERSTANDING AND "
SUPPORT.

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